

In the Claims

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following mark-up.

CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 49 (cancelled)

54. (New) A powered convertible walker/wheelchair/transporter aid useable selectively as a walker, wheel chair or a transporter for traversing a support surface, comprising:

a generally rectangular wheel-base frame, including forward and rearward leg sections attached generally at the lower region thereof, and extending generally parallel to the support surface, said leg sections having a weight-bearing caster disposed on the underside thereof, whereby said forward and rearward leg sections form a rollable frame for said transporter; and

an upper frame mounted on said base frame, including a pair of transporter vertical supports, each selectively carrying longitudinal supporting arms disposed in generally parallel relation at the upper ends thereof, and each supporting arm removeably secured to a first end of each supporting arm by a lateral gripping handle whereby said arms and handle form a generally U-shaped upper frame with said vertical supports; and

each of said vertical supports has disposed at its lower ends, generally adjacent said leg sections a sleeved coupling attached to said base frame, and including a drive wheel, wherein said coupling has therein a spring biasing unit to position said vertical supports and drive wheel upwardly and free of said support surface when said vertical supports are unloaded and said drive wheel and vertical supports are moveable downwardly to contact said support surface in a driving condition, as upon loading said vertical support beyond the spring bias in said sleeve coupling, whereby said transporter functions as a free-wheeling walker in the unloaded condition and as a driven wheelchair/ transporter when in a loaded condition.

50. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 54 wherein each drive wheel is separately controllable.

51. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein a seat is disposed intermediate said vertical supports, generally intermediate the supporting arms ~~respective ends~~ thereof oriented such that an included back of the seat is supported by the handle.

52. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein a load transport platform is disposed intermediate said vertical supports, generally adjacent the lower ends thereof and said base frame, and oriented such that it is supported by said vertical supports below the sleeves and in the space defined above by the handle and the supporting arms.

53. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 50 wherein a control for operating the drive motors is disposed on one of the vertical supports adjacent one of the support arms.